

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

TRSE-00 AEC-11 SCI-06 STR-08 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01

EPA-04 CEQ-02 DOTE-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

NEA-11 DRC-01 /247 W

----- 112936

R 281900Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6416

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 2440

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP AND AMBASSADOR IRWIN, EUR/WE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: ENERGY - FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR UN-SPONSORED CNFERENCE

A) STATE 15406;(B) USUN 284; C) STATE 17652 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR OUTLINED FRENCH

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RATIONALE FOR THEIR PROPOSAL FOR UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON

ENERGY JANUARY 28, INDICATING PROPOSAL ALREADY HAD RECEIVED VERY FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND ECOSOC PRESIDENT KARHILO. WHILE ADMITTING FRENCH CONCEPTS SOMEWHAT VAGUE, PUAUX INSISTED FRENCH PROPOSAL NOT INTENDED INTERFERE, AND NOT INCOMPATIBLE, WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S CALL FOR FEBRUARY 11 CONFERENCE. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT, WHILE US NOT OPPOSED TO CONFERENCE PER SE, WE PREFERRED APPROACH ENERGY PROBLEM ON STEP-BY-STEP BASIS AND DID NOT BELIEVE DECISION SHOULD BE MADE ON UN CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER RESULTS FEBRUARY 11 WASHINGTON MEETING KNOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. QUAI POLITICAL DIRECTOR PUAUX CALLED ME IN JANUARY 28 TO PROVIDE FRENCH RATIONALE FOR THEIR PROPOSAL FOR UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE. AS I ARRIVED, I MET IRISH AMBASSADOR AND BRITISH AND GERMAN CHARGES AND SUBSEQUENTLY SAW POLISH AND CZECH AMBASSADORS, WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT QUAI ENGAGING IN WIDESPREAD EFFORT DISSEMINATE THEIR POSITION RE UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE. PUAUX SAID FRENCH OBJECTIVE WAS TO ATTENUATE THE TENSION THAT HAD BEEN CREATED BY THE ENERGY CRISIS AND TO REPLACE A CONFRONTATION BY A CONFERENCE WHOSE BASIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. HE RHETORICALLY ASKED WHY CHOOSE THE UN AND ANSWERED BY SAYING IT WAS THE FORUM THAT OFFERED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MEMBERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR OWN VIEWS. FRENCH BELIEVED IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO GIVE THOSE CONCERNED AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES.

3. HE CONTINUED THAT THE COMPETENCE OF THE UN FOR A PROBLEM OF THIS SORT WAS SELF-EVIDENT AS THE PROBLEM WAS OF THE SAME NATURE AS THAT OF THE US PROPOSED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, PUAUX SAID THERE WERE A NUMBER OF REGIONAL CONFERENCES ON ENERGY CURRENTLY SCHEDULED OR RECENTLY COMPLETED: (A) ECAFE SCHEDULED MEETING ON ENERGY ON FEBRUARY 24 IN BANGKOK; (B) THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA HAD CALLED A CONFERENCE AT TRIPOLI FOR FEBRUARY 2 ON THE OIL INDUSTRY; (C) THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA HAD SUGGESTED A MEETING OF AN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP ON ENERGY; (D) AN AABO-AFRICAN MEETING HAD JUST ENDED IN CAIRO OF A COMMITTEE OF SEVEN WISE MEN TO STUDY THE ENERGY QUESTION. PUAUX SAID THESE MEETINGS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN PROPOSING THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON ENERGY WHICH COULD BENEFIT FROM SUCH

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CONFERENCE RESULTS. PUAUX STRESSED THAT THE GOF WANTED TO DISCUSS ALL THE PROBLEMS OF ENERGY, NOT JUST PETROLEUM. THEY HAD BEEN ASKED WHY THEY DID NOT INCLUDE RAW MATERIALS AS WELL, AND THEIR REPLY WAS THAT TO BROADEN THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE TO SUCH AN EXTENT WOULD MAKE IT TOO COMPLICATED. HOWEVER, IF THE PROPOSED UN CONFERENCE ACHIEVED GOOD RESULTS, THEY WOULD NOT EXCLUDE EXPANDING THE CONFERENCE LATER TO INCLUDE A STUDY OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS.

4. PUAUX SAID THAT "CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS" HAD SAID THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS AT CROSS PURPOSES WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE MAJOR CONSUMING NATIONS TO CONVENE IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 11. HE SAID THAT THIS ALLEGATION WAS "NOT TRUE". IN EXCHANGES WITH THE SECRETARY, FONMIN JOBERT HAD REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF CALLING A UN WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE PRIOR TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION FOR THE FEBRUARY 11 MEETING IN WASHINGTON. THUS, IT WAS BY NO MEANS TRUE THAT, AS SOME PAPERS SAID, THE FRENCH INVENTED THE IDEA OF A UN CONFERENCE OVERNIGHT IN ORDER TO INTERFERE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL.

5. AS FOMIN JOBERT HAD TOLD THE SECRETARY AT BRUSSELS, THE GOF HESITATED TO JOIN A MEETING OF THE RICH CONSUMING COUNTRIES. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS OUR INTENT TO ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS WITH THE DISCUSSIONS BUT ONLY AT A LATER STAGE. PUAUX INSISTED THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL WAS NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION AS IT WOULD TAKE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME TO ORGANIZE THE UN CONFERENCE. BASICALLY, WHAT FRANCE ENVISAGES IS THAT THE UN CONFERENCE: 1) EVALUATE THE SITUATION BY PREPARING A BALANCE SHEET OF ENERGY AVAILABILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS ON A REGIONAL BASIS AND THE SUBSEQUENTLY PUTTING THEM TOGETHER ON A WORLD LEVEL; 2) ENGAGE IN A COMMON SEARCH OR DIRECTING PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD HARMONIZE THE REACTION OF EACH COUNTRY IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO DEVELOP A COMMON POLICY LEADING TO A BASIS FOR WORLD COOPERATION. WHEN I PRESSED PUAUX FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE FOREGOING LANGUAGE WAS VAGUE BUT IT WAS INTENTIONALLY VAGUE.

6. PUAUX SAID FONMIN JOBERT HAD WRITTEN TO SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT, IF HE APPROVED OF THE IDEA, HE

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SHOULD INDICATE THE BEST PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED. WALDHEIM HAD GIVEN A "VERY FAVORABLE REACTION" AND HAD SUGGESTED THAT ECOSOC WAS THE MOST QUALIFIED UN ORGAN TO DEAL WITH THE AFFAIR. HE, IN TURN, HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH KARHILO OF ECOSOC, WHO HAD ALSO HAD THE "SAME FAVORABLE REACTION". ACCORDING TO PUAUX, KARHILO PRESENTLY STUDYING WHICH WAS THE BEST OF TWO POSSIBLE PROCEDURES: (A) CALLING AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF ECOSOC, OR (B) INSCRIBING THE QUESTION ON THE "ORDRE DE JOUR" FOR THE SESSION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9. PUAUX SAID FOREGOING INTENDED KEEP US INFORMED OF THEIR THINKING ON THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE.

7. I ASKED PUAUX IF HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR ROUGE'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR FERGUSON (REF B), AND ON COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT'S DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR KOSCIUSKO-

MORIZET. WHEN HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED BOTH REPORTS,
I MERELY TOLD HIM THAT,WHILE WE DID NOT OPPOSE FRENCH
PROPOSAL PER SE, WE BELIEVED WE SHOULD PROCEED ON A STEP-BY-STEP
BASIS AND THEREFORE NO DECISION SHOULD BE REACHED REGARDING
THEIR PROPOSAL UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE FEBRUARY 11
MEETINGIN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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